

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. Claim 23 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 24, 25, 28 and 29 have been rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 41-48 track previous claims 26, 27 and 32-37, but depend ultimately from claim 25 rather than claim 24.

The rejection of claim 23 is rendered moot by its cancellation. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability for claims 24-40. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any issues remain that prevent the allowance of this application.



Date: March 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM:gmd